

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

COMUSJAP FUCHU JA

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA

COMSEVENTHFLT YOKOSUKA JA

S E C R E T TOKYO 11318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PINS JA

SUBJECT: USS MIDWAY

REF: STATE 161570 DTG 151648Z AU 73

SUMMARY: JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE INFORMED EMBASSY AND COMNAVFORJAPAN THAT DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 14-28 PRESENCE OF MIDWAY IN YOKOSUKA PORT WILL PROVIDE FOCUS FOR AND ENHANCE MAJOR LEFTIST ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS EXPECTED TO COINCIDE WITH INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WAR DAY OCTOBER 21. ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT CREW MORALE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, AMBASSADOR AND COMSEVENTHFLT AGREED ON PREPARATION OF CONTINGENCY PLAN TO MOVE MIDWAY SHOULD POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WARRANT. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY AND COMNAVFORJAPAN REPS MET WITH JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE OFFICIALS AND STAFF OF SECURITY DIVISION
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OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF RADICAL DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST MIDWAY WHEN IT ARRIVES AT YOKOSUKA IN OCTOBER.

2. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE, THEY WOULD PREFER THAT MIDWAY AVOID YOKOSUKA DURING PERIOD OCTOBER 14-28 INCLUSIVE. THIS PERIOD CENTERS AROUND PROJECTED OCTOBER 21 PEAK OF JAPANESE LEFTIST ANTI-WAR CAMPAIGN WHEN 60,000 PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANTI-MILITARY DEMONSTRATIONS IN TOKYO ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-WAR DAY.

3. IN ADDITION, LEFTIST EXTREMIST GROUPS, WHICH HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS, HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO MAKE THE MIDWAY'S ARRIVAL THE MAIN TARGET OF EXTREMIST PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. IF MIDWAY IS NOT IN PORT AT YOKOSUKA DURING THIS PERIOD, POLICE EXPECT ORDINARY LEFTIST TO BE ABLE TO MOBILIZE 50,000 TO 60,000 DEMONSTRATORS ON ANY GIVEN DAY, WHILE EXTREMISTS MAY BE ABLE TO MOBILIZE 4,00 TO 5,000. HOWEVER, IF MIDWAY IS AT YOKOSUKA DURING PERIOD OF ONE WEEK PRECEDING AND ONE WEEK FOLLOWING OCTOBER 21, THEN LEFTIST INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND NUMBERS OF DEMONSTRATORS, BOTH ORDINARY AND EXTREMIST, WILL INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY. FURTHERMORE, IF MIDWAY IS IN PORT FOR ANY PERIOD LONGER THAN WEEK OR TEN DAYS ON FIRST CALL, EXTREMISTS MAY BE CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING "CONTINUING CAMPAIGN" OF POTENTIALLY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN YOKOSUKA THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD, REACHING A PEAK OF 20,000 ON OCTOBER 21. ORDINARY LEFTIST CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED TO MOVE THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR TOKYO TO YOKOSUKA.

5. IF EXTREMISTS LAUNCH "CONTINUING CAMPAIGN" POLICE EXPECT TACTICS MAY INCLUDE HARRASSMENT OF TRAFFIC IN AND OUT OF YOKOSUKA BASE AND ESPECIALLY OF FAMILIES WHO WILL BE HOUSE HUNTING DURING THIS PERIOD.

6. EMBASSY AND COMNAVFORJAPAN REPS EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY AND COMPLEX CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN
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TRYING TO ALTER SCHEDULES OF LARGE VESSELS SUCH AS MIDWAY. POLICE OFFICIALS RESPONDED THAT THEY WOULD ACCOMMODATE WHATEVER THE OPERATIONAL SCHEDULE OF THE MIDWAY TURNED OUT TO BE, BUT THEY WISHED TO REITERATE THAT PRESENCE OF THE MIDWAY IN YOKOSUKA DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD CAUSE THEM MAXIMUM DIFFICULTY AND THEREFORE THEY RECOMMENDED THAT IF THE MIDWAY ARRIVES OCTOBER 5, THAT IT LEAVE PORT OCTOBER 12 AND NOT RETURN UNTIL OCTOBER 29.

7. DURING COMSEVENTHFLT CALL ON AMBASSADOR AUGUST 30, ADMIRAL STEELE NOTED THAT PLANS FOR MIDWAY TO REMAIN IN PORT FOR 30 DAYS AFTER INITIAL ARRIVAL HAD ALREADY

BEEN COMMUNICATED TO CREW AND FAMILIES. NAVY WISHES TO AVOID CONSIDERABLE MORALE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HOMEPORING PROGRAM HAS FACED ELSEWHERE. ADVERSE CREW ATTITUDE COULD CONEIVABLY JEOPARDIZE PROGRAM FOR JAPAN. SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION OF MIDWAY'S SCHEDULE FOR INITIAL VISIT COULD CAUSE GREAT DISRUPTION AMONG CREW AND FAMILIES WHO ARE FACED WITH DIFFICULTIES OF MOVING, FINDING HOMES, ETC. HOWEVER, CREW WOULD PROBABLY UNDERSTAND NEED TO WITHDRAW MIDWAY TEMPORARILY SHOULD LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR. FURTHERMORE, ONLY ABOUT 300 MEMBERS OF CREW EXPECTED TO HAVE FAMILIES IN YOKOSUKA IN EARLY OCTOBER; AND IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR MANY OF THESE TO REMAIN ON SHORE IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW THE MIDWAY TEMPORARILY. ACCORDINGLY, AMBASSADOR AND COMSEVENTHFLT AGREED THAT SUCH A CONTINGENCY PLAN WOULD BE DEVISED.

8. ON SEPTEMBER 4 FONOFF CALLED IN POL/MIL COUNSELOR TO RECEIVE "FINAL GOJ POSITION/ REGARDING ARRIVAL OF MIDWAY. CHIEF SECURITY DIVISION YAMASHITA MADE IT CLEAR THAT POSITION HAD APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. GOJ POSITION IS THAT FIRST ARRIVAL OF MIDWAY MAY TAKE PLACE ANY TIME AFTER OCTOBER 1 AND ITS FIRST VISIT SHOULD LAST NO LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS. IN ANY CASE, MIDWAY MUST DEPART YOKOSUKA ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 17 TO AVOID CONTRIBUTIN TO BUILDUP FOR OCTOBER 21 ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS. GOJ WISHEEMDISCUSS WITH EMBASSY ASAP PLANS FOR SECOND VISIT OF MIDWAY, WHICH
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SHOULD NOT RPT NOT OCCUR PRIOR TO END OF OCTOBER. FONOFF REQUESTED THAT GOJ POSITION BE CONVEYED ASAP TO USG AND REQUESTED EARLY USG REPLY.

9. COMMENT: FONOFF AWARE THAT COMSEVENTHFLT WORKING ON CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR EMERGENCY WITHDRAWAL OF MIDWAY IN EVENT DEMONSTRATIONS ASSUME LARGE PROPORTIONS. WHILE FONOFF APPRECIATIVE THIS USG EFFORT TO MEET GOJ CONCERNS ABOUT MIDWAY, GOJ, PARTICULARLY POLICE AGENCY, OF VIEW THAT TIME FOR DEPARTURE OF MIDWAY BE SET RPT SET NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 17 (I.E. THAT USG ACCEPT FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THAT MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS CERTAINLY WOULD BEGIN TO OCCUR ON OCTOBER 17).

10. ONE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE TO PRE-DETERMINED DEPARTURE DATE IS THAT DEPARTURELESS LIKELY TO APPEAR RESULT OF PRESSURE OF DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH IS MAJOR DRAWBACK OF CONTINGENCY PLAN IDEA. MAJOR DRAWBACK TO PREDETERMINED DEPARTUE TIME IS IMPACT ON MORALE ON MIDWAY CREW MEMBERS AND FAMILIES RESIDENT IN JAPAN, AS MENTIONED BY ADMIRAL STEELE. EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO SUGGEST MEANS OF HANDLING

MIDWAY MORALE PROBLEM, BUT EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT IS THAT GOJ INTENSELY CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS UPON FIRST ARRIVAL OF MIDWAY AND THAT HIGH-RANKING GOJ OFFICIALS FEEL STRONGLY THAT INITIAL VISIT OF MIDWAY FOLLOWING PATTERN PROPOSED BY GOJ WOULD BE REASONABLE AND MINIMAL USG ACCOMMODATION TO GOJ CONCERNS.

11. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT FIRST ARRIVAL OF MIDWAY FOLLOW PATTERN INDICATED IN GOJ POSITION AND THAT EMBASSY BE PROVIDED INFORMATION SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW ASAP DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ CONCERNING SECOND VISIT OF MIDWAY. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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